

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-14 TRSE-00 ACDA-19

DPW-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 141503Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7980

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS LONDON 02019

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, EG, IN, PK, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON CAIRO MEETING OF PAKISTAN AND  
BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES

1. THE GUARDIAN FEBRUARY 14 CARRIED STORY BY S.R. GHURI  
FROM KARACHI REPORTING THAT PAKISTAN HAS SOUGHT GOOD  
OFFICES OF PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT IN ATTEMPT TO  
ESTABLISH GOOD RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH BEFORE ISLAMIC  
SUMMIT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR LAHORE FEBRUARY 22 AND  
23. ARTICLE SAYS PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY,  
QUOTING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES FEBRUARY 13, REPORTED A  
FLURRY OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN CAIRO, ISLAMABAD AND  
DACCA. PAKISTANI NEWSPAPERS CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED AN  
AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH WOULD BE REACHED "WITHIN DAYS".

2. PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED, WHO UNEX-  
PECTEDLY FLEW TO CAIRO LAST SUNDAY, AND BANGLADESH  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE CHAUDHRY HAD SEPARATE MEETING  
WITH PRESIDENT SADAT FEBRUARY 12.

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3. ARTICLE SAYS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IS BEING ATTACHED TO THESE MEETINGS. HASAN AL-TOHAMY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT, WHO VISITED DACCA LAST WEEK TO INVITE SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN TO ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE, IS ALSO IN CAIRO. HE IS EXPECTED TO VISIT DACCA AGAIN ON FRIDAY.

4. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES WERE QUOTED AS "HINTING" THAT BANGLADESH WOULD FORMALLY ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT AND DROP THE TRIAL OF NINETEEN PAKISTANI POW'S.

5. ARTICLE SAYS WELL-INFORMED SOURCES DISCLOSED LAST WEEK THAT PAKISTAN WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM MOSLEM HEADS OF STATE TO RESOLVE ITS QUARREL WITH BANGLADESH AND ENABLE LATTER TO PARTICIPATE IN ISLAMIC CONFERENCE.

6. ARTICLE SAYS IT SHOULD BE CLEAR BY WEEKEND WHETHER PAKISTAN'S OPTIMISM THAT TRIALS WILL NOT BE HELD IS JUSTIFIED. BANGLADESH HAS ALREADY APPOINTED SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO TRY PAKISTANIS FOR WAR CRIMES, BUT PAKISTAN HAS POINTED OUT THAT UNDER DELHI AGREEMENT THE TRIALS COULD NOT BE STAGED WITHOUT PRIOR MEETING BETWEEN INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH.

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